Income tax Assessments of personal Staff of Ministers

2122. SHRI F. M. KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details and particulars of Income Tax assessments of the personal staff of the Cabinet Ministers during the last two years in each case; and

(b) what is the amount of Income Tax paid by each of them during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) The number of personal staff attached to the Cabinet Ministers is quite large and depending on their previous postings and different sources of income, they would be assessed to tax in different income-tax offices in different parts of the country. Under the statutory provisions, many of them would not be under obligation to file returns of income. The information will have to be collected from field formations spread all over the country which will involve considerable time and effort. However, if the information is desired regarding income-tax assessment of any particular personal staff attached to any Cabinet Minister, the same can be collected and furnished.

Winding up of shipping company in Goa

@2122-A. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Goa based shopping company has decided to wind up;

(b) if so, what is the number of ships with this company and the amount of loan which is to be returned by the company to Government;

(c) whether the amount with interest will be paid by the Company or it has to be recovered by auctioning their ships; and

(d) what are the details of auction being undertaken by Government to safeguard its interests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Liquidation proceedings are reported to have been started against M|s. Demmpo Steamship Limited, a Goa based company, under the orders of the Bombay High Court.

(b) The company has four vessels which have been acquired with the assistance of the erstwhile Shipping Development Fund Committee. The total dues outstanding against the company are reported to be of the order of about Rs. 41.30 crores.

(c) and (d) The Shipping Development Fund Committee has been wound up with effect from 3.4.1987 under the provisions of the Shipping Development Fund Committee (Abolition) Act, 1986 and its assets and liabilities have vested in Government of India consequent to its abolition. The Governmment would pursue its interest in the legal proceedings against the company.

Steps to reduce imports of telecommunications Equipment

†2122-B. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to reduce the dependence on imports of telecommunication equipment to zero level by increasing the indigenous production;

(b) what are the equipment areas where licensing capacity sanctioned at present is enough to eliminate dependence on imports;

(c) what are the reasons for large non-utilisation of the licensing capacity;

(d) what is the name of foreign company, contract value, contract date, delivery schedule, nature and quantity of

@Previously unstarred Question 1793 transferred from the 6th May, 1987.

†Previously unstarred question 1848 transferred from 6th May, 1987.

telecommunication equipment in the case of each order for imports of equipment placed on foreign firms by Government so far since October, 1986; and

(e) what are the broad specifications of new types of telecom equipment to be manufactured in the country for the first time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS, AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) It is the policy of the Government to reduce dependence on imports of telecommunication equipment to the minimum. However, the rapid technological obsolescence in the field of telecommunications sometimes makes some imports inevitable.

(b) The equipment areas where sufficient capacity has been licensed are the following:—

(1) Telephone instruments

(2) Teleprinters

(3) Facsimile equipment

(4) Electronic PAX/PABX

(5) Rural Automatic Exchanges (RAX)

(6) Microwave Communication equipment

(7) Frequency Division Multiplexing equipment

(8) Coaxial Cable Communicanon systems

(9) Two way radio communication equipment

(c) Telecommunications equipment being technologically quite sophisticated, the gestation period for attaining full licensed capacity for any product varies from about 3 years to 6 years. The equipment also has to pass very stringent evaluation tests before commencement of regular production.

(d) Information relating to major imports of telecommunication equipment made since October, 1986 of a value more than Rs. 5 lakhs (FOB) is given in the Annexture. [*see* Appendiv CXLII, Annexure No. 103].

(3) The following are the new types of telecom. equipment to be manufactured in the country:

1. Switching equipment: All the new manufacturing units for this equipment shall manufacture only Digital Electronic type switching equipment for the following applications:

(A) Large size local telephone exchanges

(B) Trunk Automatic Exchanges (TAX)

(C) Rural Automatic Exchanges (RAX)

(D) Electronic Private Automatic Branch Exchanges (EPABX)

(E) Electronic telex exchanges

2. Long Distance Transmission equipment: Mostly digital technology will be employed in this area also. The following are the new products to be taken up for manufacture:

(A) Digital UHF communication equipment (30 channels and 120 channels).

(B) Digital Microwave Communication equipment (480 channels and 1920 channels).

(C) Optical Fibre Communication systems

(D) Digital Coaxial Communication equipment

(E) Multi Access Radio Telephone systems for rural applications.

(F) Single Channel VHF equipment.

(G) Digital Multiplexing equipment

3. Other items:

(A) Electronic Push-button telephones and cordless telephones.

(B) Electronic teleprinters

(C) Electronic pay phones

(D) Facsimile.

The above equipment are to be manufactured as per standard specifications.